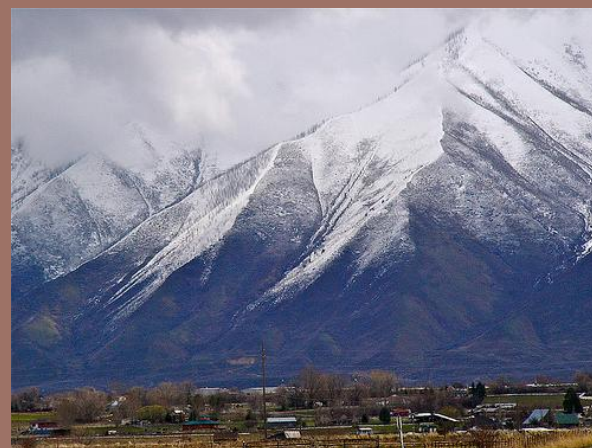




# Eastern Great Basin

2011 Seasonal Outlook-May 5, 2011



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# Eastern Great Basin

## Considerations

- ☐ Current Snowpack and Comparisons
- ☐ Precipitation Anomalies
- ☐ Soil Moisture/Drought Monitor
- ☐ CPC Weather Outlook
- ☐ May Fire Potential Outlook
- ☐ June/July/August Fire Potential Outlook

# Snowpack

## Idaho/Wyoming:

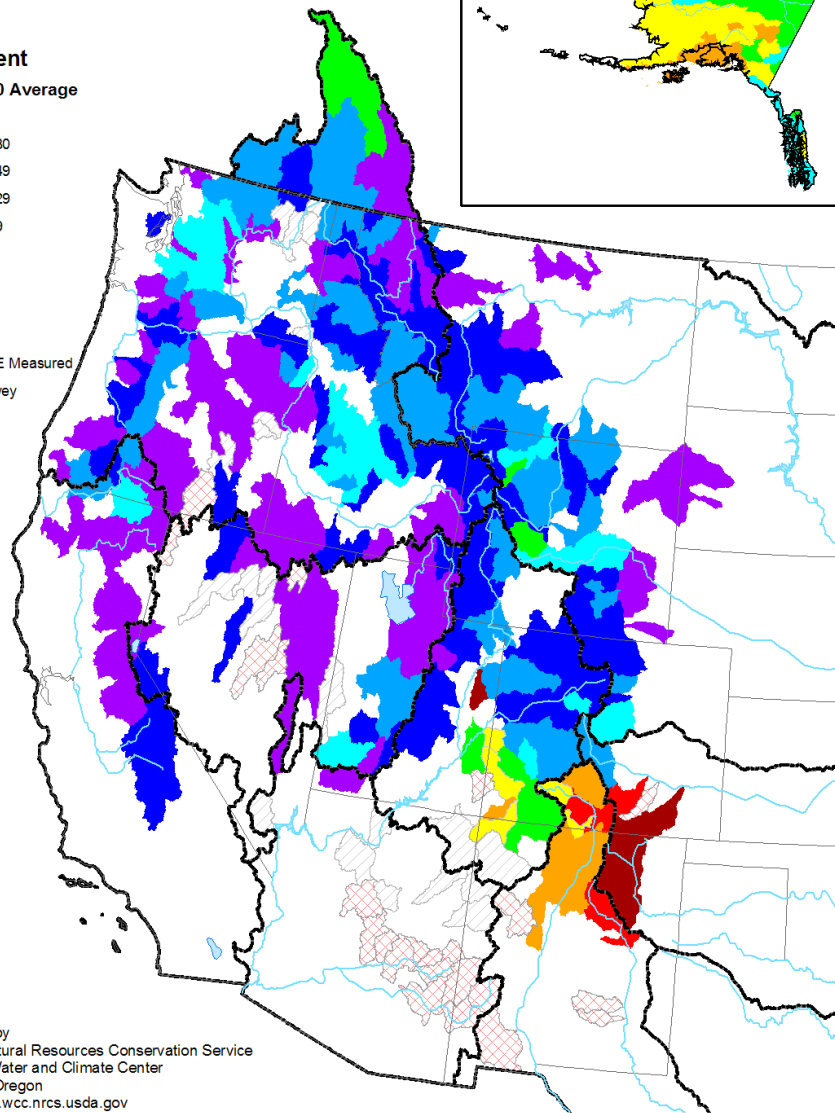
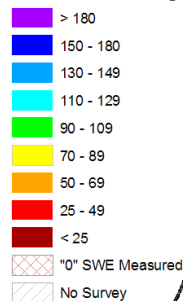
- Snowpack was normal/ below normal during the first half of the winter.
- As the storm track changed in Feb/Mar the snowpack increased to normal/above normal levels.

## Utah:

- The snowpack across Utah started strong in late in 2010 and remained above normal levels throughout the winter and spring, breaking records in some areas.

## Mountain Snowpack as of May 1, 2011

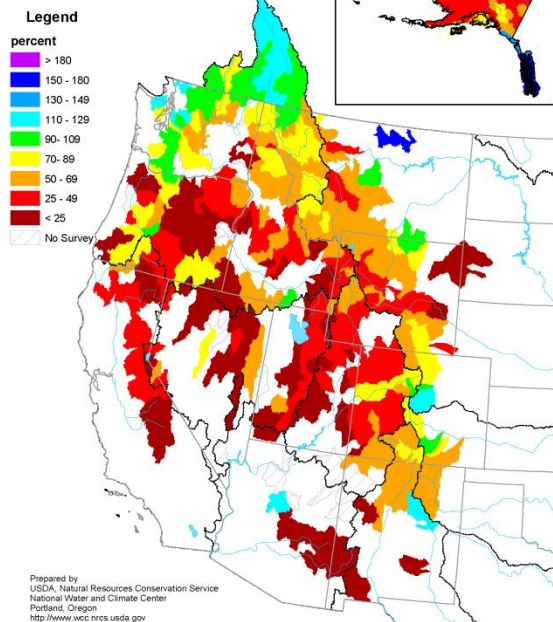
Percent  
1971 to 2000 Average



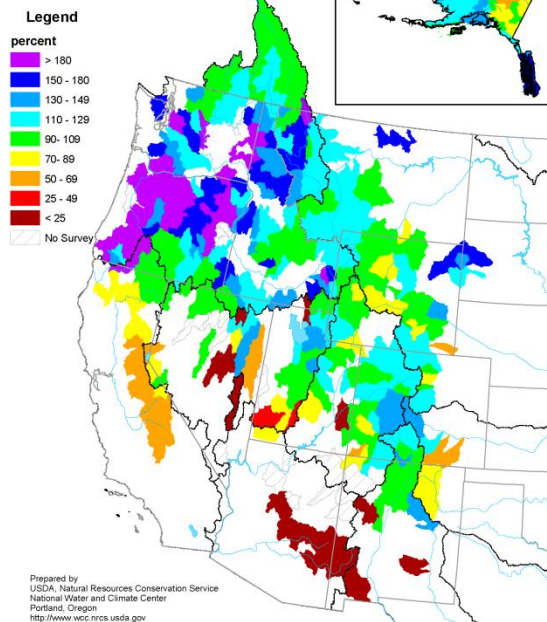
Prepared by  
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
National Water and Climate Center  
Portland, Oregon  
<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov>

# Snowpack Comparisons

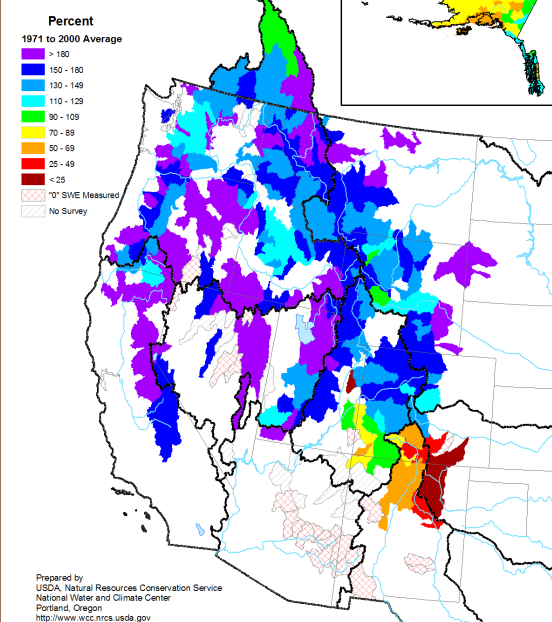
Mountain Snowpack  
as of May 1, 2007



Mountain Snowpack  
as of May 1, 2008



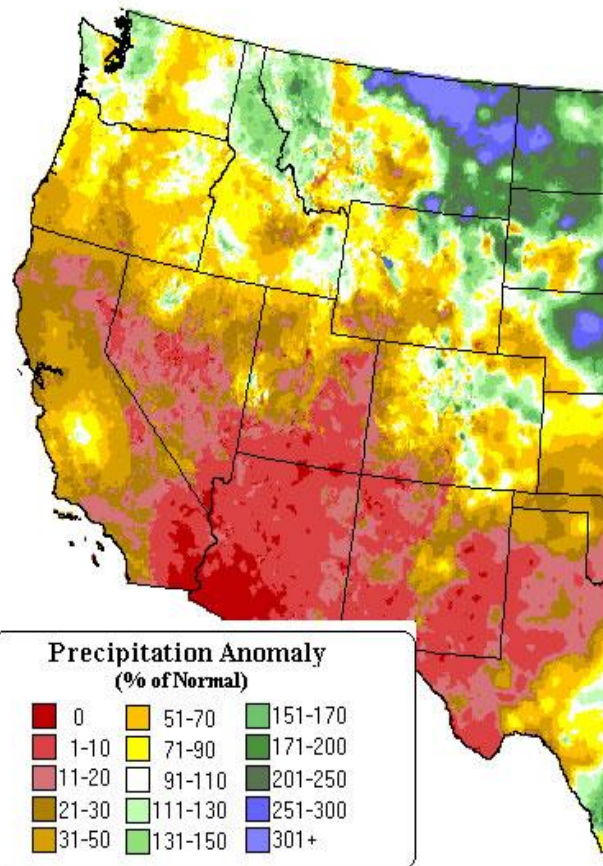
Mountain Snowpack  
as of May 1, 2011



2008-Best Fit Analog Year

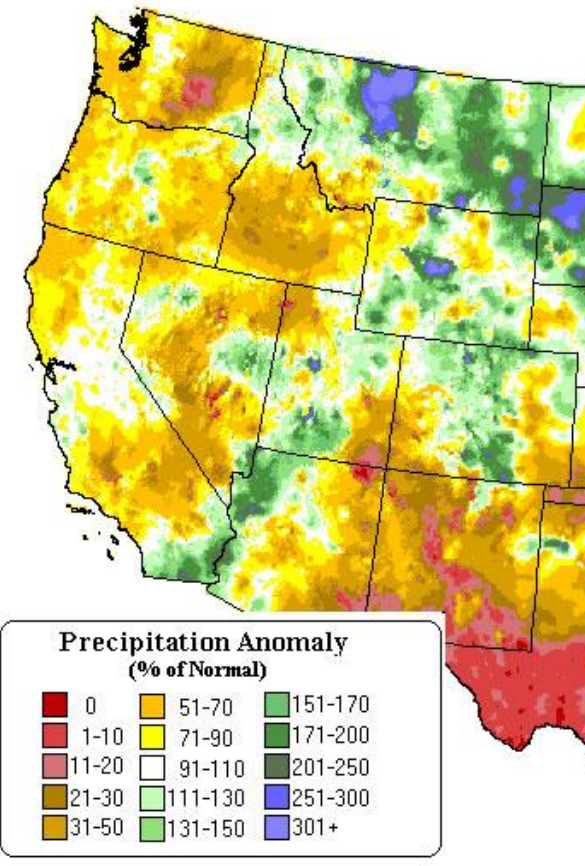
# Precipitation Anomaly - % of Normal

**Precipitation Anomaly: Jan 2011**  
Provisional Data



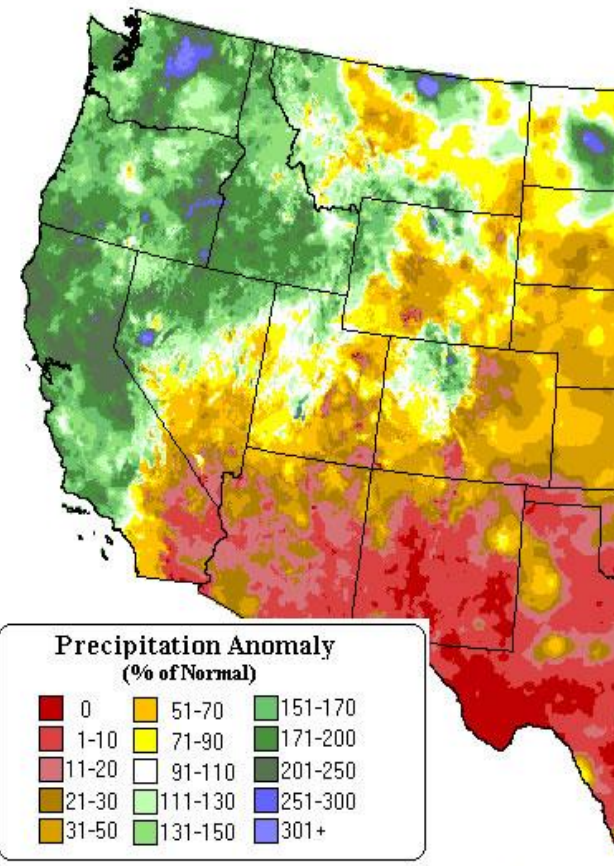
Copyright (c) 2011, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University  
<http://prism.oregonstate.edu> - Map created Apr 07 2011

**Precipitation Anomaly: Feb 2011**  
Provisional Data



Copyright (c) 2011, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University  
<http://prism.oregonstate.edu> - Map created Apr 07 2011

**Precipitation Anomaly: Mar 2011**  
Provisional Data



Copyright (c) 2011, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University  
<http://prism.oregonstate.edu> - Map created Apr 07 2011

\*\*\*Note the big change in precipitation across Idaho in March.

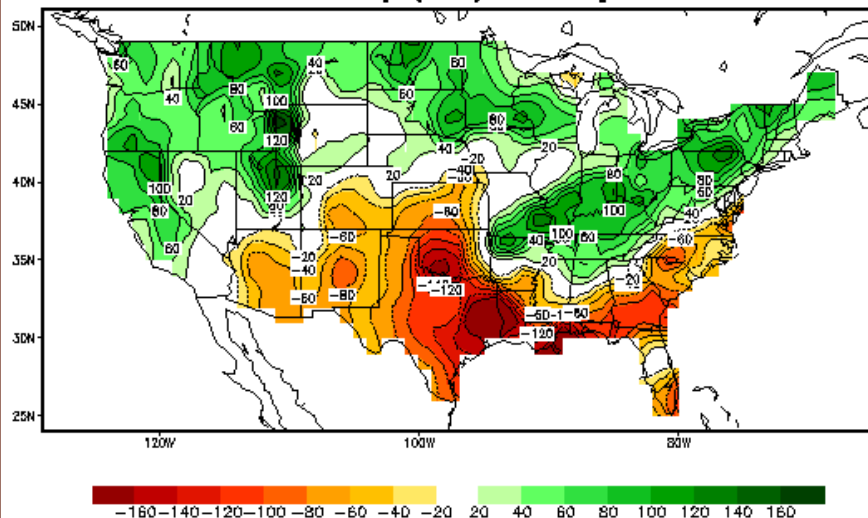
\*\*\*Note how southeast Utah remains relatively dry throughout the winter.

# Soil Moisture

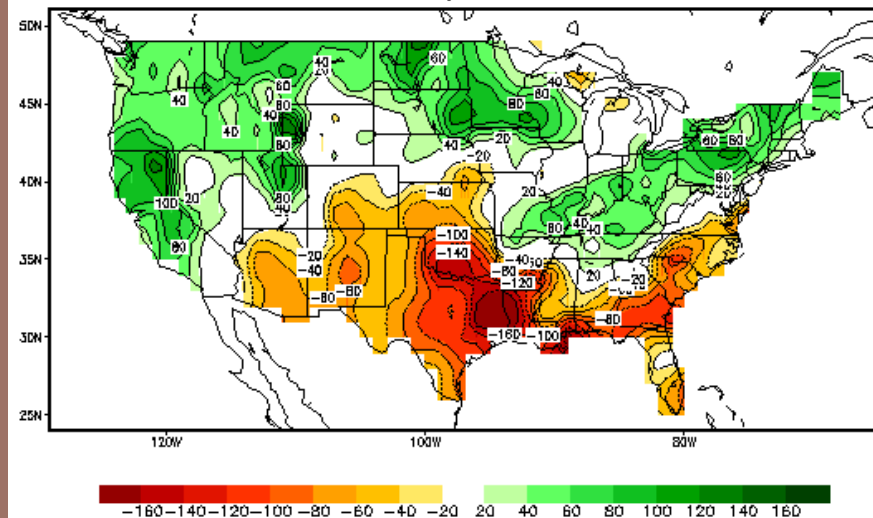
## 30 Day Anomaly

## 12 Month Anomaly

Soil Moisture Anomaly (mm) Last day of APR, 2011



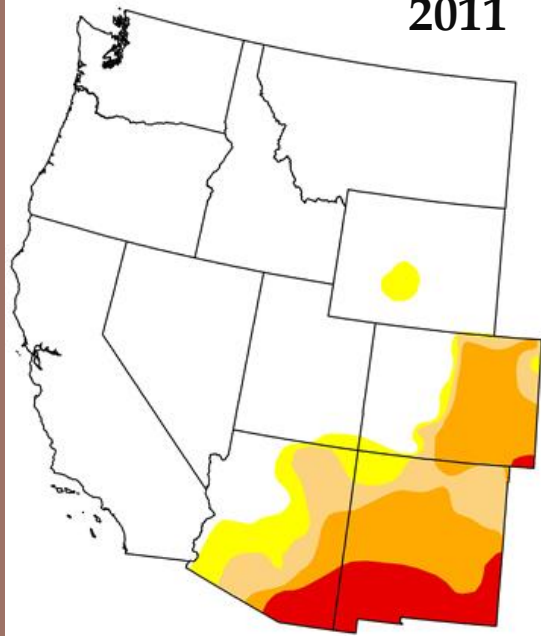
Calculated Soil Moisture Anomaly (mm)  
APR, 2011



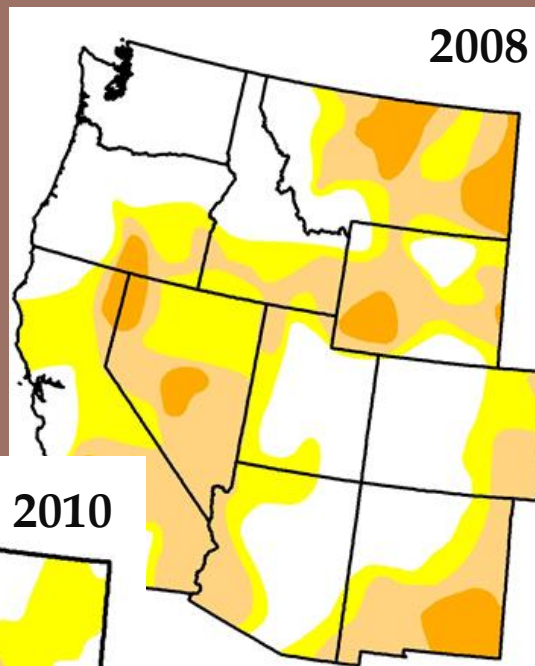
Soil moisture values are above normal for both the past month and the past year, with much above normal values across northern Utah and eastern Idaho.

# Drought Monitor Comparisons

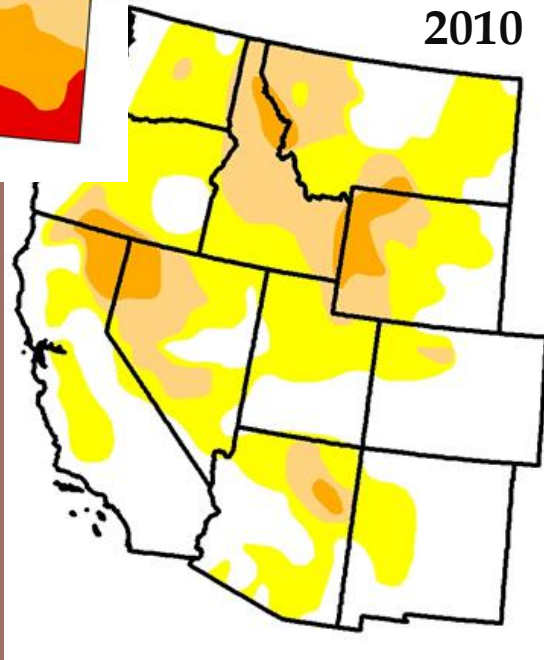
2011



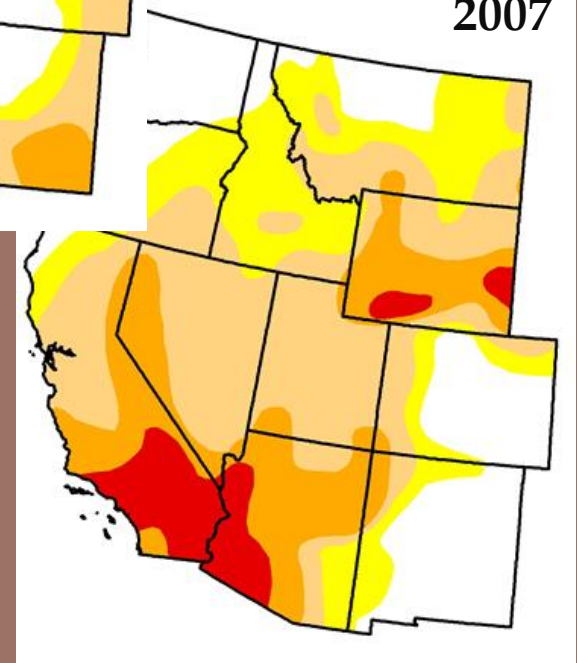
2008



2010

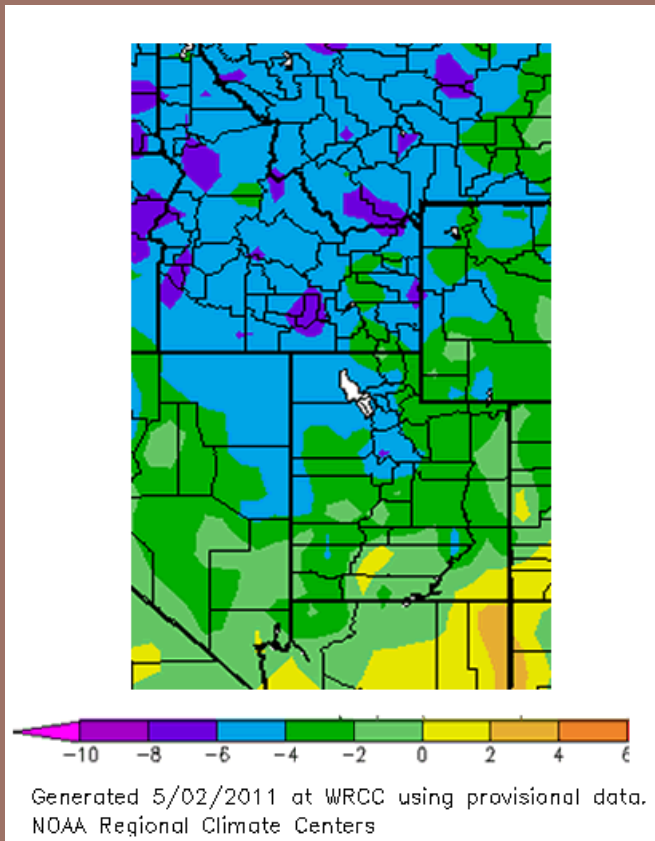


2007

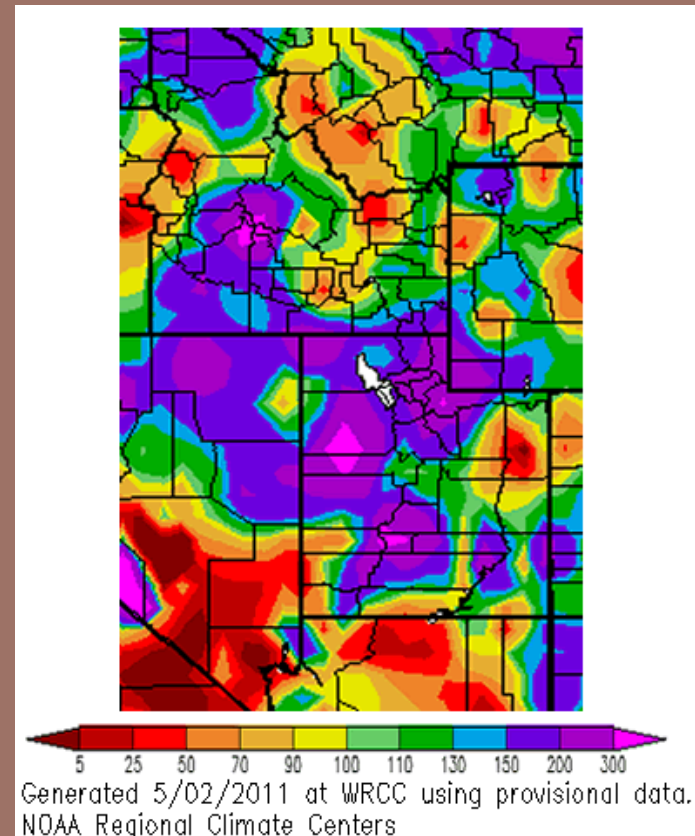


# April 2011 Temp and Precip Anomaly

## Temperature



## Precipitation



Cool temperatures along with continued precipitation during April has delayed snowmelt and green-up going into May.

\*\*\* Eastern Idaho/Wyoming and northeast Utah didn't receive as much precipitation as other areas across the region.



# May 2011 Fire Potential Outlook

**Large Fire Potential is expected to be NORMAL across EGB for May.**

## CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

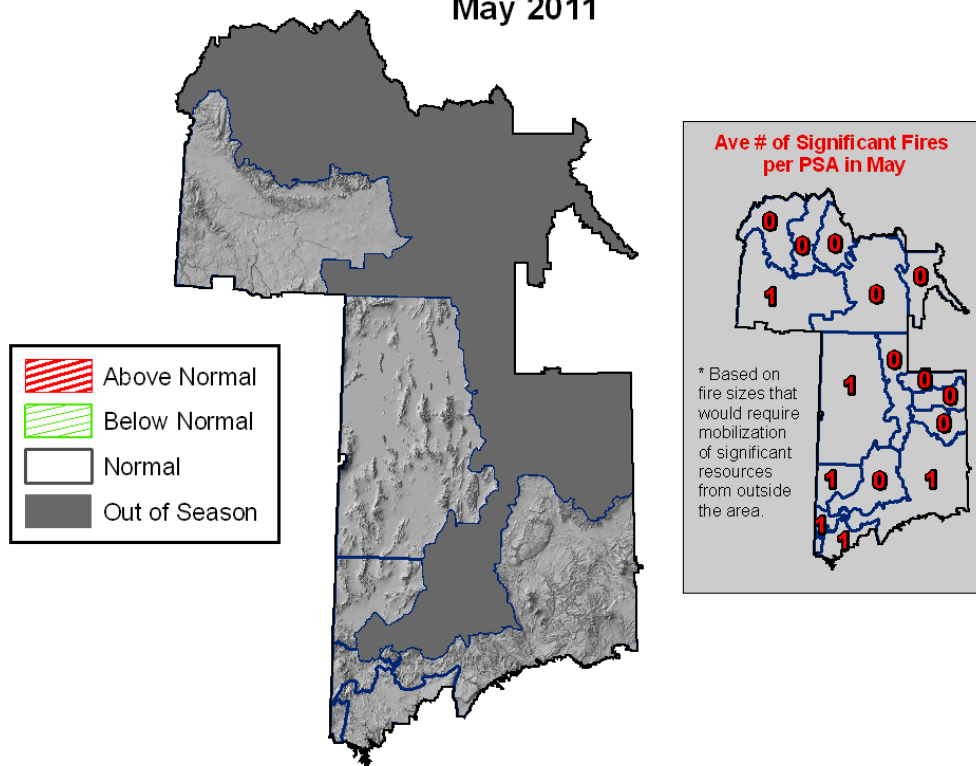
### Weather

- Snowpack and soil moisture values are above normal region wide, with the exception of southeast Utah, where near normal conditions exist.
- May is expected to be a NORMAL month weather wise, meaning gradual warming with short periods of warm or cold weather. Precipitation is expected to be normal/above normal, especially across the north.

### Fuels

- Greenup is just getting underway across the area and is expected to be normal to slightly delayed in some areas, especially across the north and higher elevations.
- Low elevation grasses will begin to cure across the south mid to late month creating a fairly short window for significant large fire activity.

## Monthly Significant Fire Potential Outlook May 2011





# June/July/August 2011 Fire Potential Outlook

Large Fire Potential is expected to be **NORMAL** across the low elevations of Idaho and northern Utah and across all of southern Utah during the JJA time period. Large Fire Potential will be **BELOW NORMAL** across the high elevations of Idaho, western Wyoming and northern Utah during the same time period.

## CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

### Weather

- Strong winter/spring La Nina conditions have generated much above normal snowpack and soil moisture going into the fire season.
- Precipitation for the water year (since 1 October) has been well above normal region wide except the southeast Utah deserts.
- A normal late spring/summer weather pattern is expected across the northern 2/3 of area with some indication of warmer than normal conditions across the south.

### Fuels

- Annual native grasses are proliferating regionwide while cheat grass growth has been stunted.
- Heavy early winter snows over the low elevations largely compacted carryover cured grasses, greatly reducing potential fuel loadings this spring.

## June/July/Aug 2011 Seasonal Significant Fire Potential Outlook

